Minutes: Early ACCESS Executive Committee

Meeting purpose

The purpose of this meeting is to:

- filter information and prepare for the Council
- set framework and agenda for Council
- identify and make recommendations for the appropriate utilization of state resources
- consider action on the recommendations of the Council
- set priorities for development of the Early ACCESS system
- implementation of the Memorandum of Agreement
- transact all regular business of the Council between meetings

Date, time, and place

Date: Wednesday, January 14, 2009 Time: 2:00-4:30pm (Teleconference)

Place: Department of Education, Conference Room 3 South

Attendees

Present: Jane Borst, Kelly Hancock, Ron Koch, Troy McCarthy, Mary Nelson, LauraBelle Sherman-Proehl, Carrie Sodders, Mary Stevens, Debra Waldron

Staff: Julie Curry, Jim Donoghue, Barb Khal, Marion Kresse, Kelly Schulte,

Susan White

Guest Speakers: Gregg Cummings, Lana Ross (Iowa Head Start

Association)

Approval of previous minutes

Quorum was established. A motion to approve the December 17, 2008, EA Executive minutes with updated corrections were approved.

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Minutes: Early ACCESS Executive Committee, Continued

Topics discussed

The table below identifies the topics discussed in the meeting and the person who led each discussion.

Topic	Discussion Leader
Head Start Legislative Action	Gregg Cummings, Lana Ross
Homeless Population	Kelly Schulte
Medicaid Work Group	Jim Donoghue
Legislative Session	Kelly Hancock
State Application	Julie Curry, LauraBelle Sherman-
	Proehl
Standing Committee Assignments	Kelly Hancock
Follow Up to November ICEA	Kelly Hancock
Meeting	
Plan for next EA Executive	Kelly Hancock
Committee Meeting	

Head Start legislative action

Gregg Cummings, Lana Ross

Gregg and Lana shared the Iowa Head Start Association's legislative agenda. They also facilitated questions around distribution of wrap around dollars. Issues they are concerned about for families with low resources are current foreclosures and budget cuts. Gregg mentioned that Head Start Directors across the state and nation are working hard on collaborating with the local school systems and partners to support lower income children and families. Questions may be directed to Gregg Cummings at iowaheadstart@yahoo.com

Homeless population

Kelly Schulte

Kelly distributed the new proposed regulations on Homeless Target Population for Child Find and Referral procedures. Kelly will collect data regarding referrals from AEAs. The AEAs will count referrals based on response by Service Coordinators. Kelly will provide an email to Mary Stevens asking AEAs assistance for collecting data.

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Minutes: Early ACCESS Executive Committee, Continued

Medicaid work group

Jim Donoghue

Jim continues to provide technical assistance providers, families and children. Jim answered questions concerning the waiver program.

It was noted that AEAs would continue Service Coordination services to children and families even if they could not bill Medicaid. AEA Special Education Directors are concerned about the cost of training staff to implement Medicaid waiver programs. Jim will provide an update and future plans at the February 18th Executive Committee Meeting.

Legislative session

Kelly Hancock

Kelly asked Committee members what they saw as important issues for 2009 Iowa Legislative Session regarding early intervention. It was discussed that state agencies are asked to work with budget cuts and some programs that were recommended in the last legislative session have not been implemented due to budget cuts. Priorities are around health care reform. It was noted that funding for services should include all special education children and not single out one specific group.

State application

Julie Curry, LauraBelle Sherman-Proehl

Julie is preparing the state application budget for Part C dollars. The state application is due in May and will need to be posted for public comments 60 days prior to due date. Also, LauraBelle and Lana Michelson (Part B) will take a closer look at the maintenance of effort law to avoid losing federal matching funds because of state funding cuts.

Standing committee assignments

Kelly Hancock

Kelly reminded everyone how board members can help Committee chairs move forward with their work as an active member. LauraBelle facilitated questions concerning the Governor's report. Carrie discussed using same format from last year and told the Committee that Senator Daryl Beall suggested not using a lot of color and include more pictures and data.

Minutes: Early ACCESS Executive Committee, Continued

Follow up to November ICEA meeting

Kelly Hancock

Kelly talked and facilitated questions on:

- APR data discussion: It was suggested that it is important to see data and have more focused discussions; ideas for doing so were discussed.
- Service Coordination panel discussion: This is very informative to Council members. We plan to continue bringing different speakers to discuss their training, activities, and their case workloads.

Plan for next EA Executive Committee meeting

Kelly Hancock

Kelly outlined the topics for the February 18, 2009, Executive Committee Meeting:

- 1. EA Eligibility Document
- 2. Medicaid Work Group
- 3. Informal System Concerns Report
- 4. Memorandum of Agreement
- 5. Debrief Service Coordination Panel for March 6, 2009, ICEA Meeting
- 6. Plan for next Executive Committee Meeting, April 1, 2009, and Agenda items for next ICEA Meeting, March 6, 2009

Sharing and adjourn

Kelly Hancock

The following information was shared:

- Beth Walling has accepted a job with Zero to Three. Beth will be working with childcare providers and funding agencies to enhance Head Start collaboration partnerships. She recently coordinated childcare licensing at DHS.
- Mary Nelson reported that DHS is recruiting to fill the MH/DD Services Division Director.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:30pm. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, February 18, 2009.

Next meeting

[Provide the date and time of the next meeting.]